



**Pandemic Season
Government Decision, Return to Play & Fees
Key Messages
Updated February 1, 2021**

Government Relations

- We share our members disappointment and frustration being left out of the provincial government's Step 1 in the easing of COVID-19 health restrictions
- We now have to wait longer once again to return to the ice even though players in each of our neighbouring provinces are allowed on the ice
- When our players were allowed to play, we effectively managed the risk as our members adhered to strict health guidelines
- Our members have told us hockey is needed at this time more than ever for their children's physical and mental well-being
- We have worked hard raising our members' concerns, lobbying the provincial government since November
- Hockey Alberta has regular meetings with Alberta Health; Hockey Edmonton wrote the province and has had regular communication with health officials
- Hockey Alberta and Hockey Edmonton proposed Return to Play plans to the province, including various measures that could be taken to enhance safety
- We have always maintained the health and safety of all Albertans is everyone's number one priority
- We respect the provincial health leaders' expertise and have shared their messages
- We thank our hockey family for the ongoing understanding and support

Return to Play

- We are in the Step 2 of the government's health measures plan, which means the earliest date we could return to play is March 1
- We need the COVID-19 numbers to continue their downward trend in order to realize that date
- We will meet with Hockey Alberta this week; we expect an announcement to end minor hockey league play across the province for the 2020-2021; Minor Hockey Week will also be cancelled
- This would not mean hockey is over
- We have hockey activities ready to launch should health restrictions be eased March 1
- Those health restrictions will shape the on-ice activities
- We would expect a start would include physically distanced practice with a limited number of people on the ice
- If we receive permission, Hockey Edmonton would plan this portion of play not to go beyond April 30
- We are looking to secure enough ice to accommodate our inter-lock partners who may no longer have ice in their home communities
- The vast majority of our members have asked for this type of plan – they want their kids to play
- Many members have also expressed an interest in extending play into May and June, health conditions permitting
- We are planning opt-in hockey development programming for that time
- This programming might include skill development sessions and/or 3v3 hockey

Hockey Fees

- We know our members are anxious to find out about their fees
- There will be refunds – we just can't say for how much yet
- We are waiting to hear from Hockey Canada and Hockey Alberta as to how much of a reduction will be in their fees
- We also must wait to see how much hockey we can deliver in this short season, including what is left
- Once we have all that information, we will send refunds to the Operating Areas
- Costs and refunds will differ from program to program due to their different structures and how much ice time they've seen this season
- All these bodies have fixed operating costs that need to be considered
- We want to be fair but we also need to consider the future financial stability of these organizations so we can continue to operate in the future